Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Ministry of Rural Development); Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Schemes such as Swajaldhara, ARWSP and Total Sanitation Campaign (Ministry of Rural Development); National Rural Health Mission (Ministry of Health & FW); Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (Ministry of HRD, Deptt. of Elementary Education) and ICDS (Ministry of HRD, Deptt. of Women & Child Development). The matter is being pursued with the Ministries concerned as well as the Ministry of Finance.

States will be consulted through the Empowered sub-Committee of the National Development Council on Financial and Administrative empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institutions chaired by the Union Minister of Panchayati Raj and their views obtained with regard to the options proposed for rapid transfer of fund to Panchayats without delay or diversion.

Panchayat elections

1061. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are discouraging the introduction of two-child-norm for the candidates contesting Panchayat elections;

(b) whether Government have officially advised the State Governments to this effect;

(c) the States that have introduced the provision in their Panchayat laws;

(d) the States who have deleted the provision after its introduction in their respective legislations; and

(e) whether Government propose to ban such introduction of two-child-norm by a constitutional amendment?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per the information available, the States that have introduced this provision in their Panchayat laws are — Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.

(d) The State of Himachal Pradesh has deleted the provision after its introduction in its legislation. Madhya Pradesh has announced its

intention of doing so. Haryana has the matter under review.

(e) No, Sir.

Right to Information Act

1062. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Right to Information Act as passed by the Parliament has been fully enforced across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to remove the impediments in the effective implementation of the provision of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The RTI Act, 2005 has come into force across the country except Jammu & Kashmir w.e.f. 12th October, 2005. A Central Information Commission has been set up with defined powers and functions under the Act.

Seeking of information in file notings

1063. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Information Commission in its recent sitting has ruled that, file notings were an integral part of a file and that a citizen has the right to seek information in file notings, save under section 8 of the law;

(b) if so, whether this ruling goes beyond the directives of the Prime Minister to release substantive file notings relating only to developmental and social issues; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) The Central Information Commission in Appeal No. ICPB/A-I/CIC/